



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release No. 02-46

Date: Sept. 13, 2002

Contact: Gina Schwetz

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Greenbelt construction projects improve visitor safety, expand parking

Clarkston, Wash. – Work has begun to expand the Greenbelt boat ramp parking area and install lighting to improve visitor safety along the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers' Greenbelt Trail here.

The Greenbelt Trail Safety Lighting Project runs from the Greenbelt Boat Ramp to Nave's Pit Recreation Area. The project is slated for completion on Sept. 30. The new lights should increase visitors' safety as they use the trail during low-light and evening hours.

"This is a proactive public safety measure," said William Dunk a park ranger here. "Visitors frequently use the asphalt trail after dark. These lights will increase the after-dark safety factor –by helping bicyclists and pedestrians to see each other in time to avoid a collision, or by helping a jogger see better and avoid tripping."

The Corps' Walla Walla District awarded the \$66,000 contract for services to Avista Utilities of Spokane, Wash., to install the safety lighting.

Corps officials caution trail users to be aware of workers and equipment on sections of the trail that are being worked on as Avista Utilities personnel install the lights and underground wiring. More than 50 lights will be installed along nearly 7,000 linear feet of trail.

"We are trying to leave the trail open so our visitors can still enjoy the recreation trail during the installation period," said Dunk.

Greenbelt boat ramp users may notice construction workers expanding the parking area. When finished, the project will increase parking space by about 30 percent. However, during the construction period, parking space has temporarily been reduced by about one-third, said Barry Richards, resource manager here.

The District awarded the \$97,000 parking area contract to Knight Construction of Spokane. The project is slated for completion on Sept. 30.

Other available boat ramps in the area include Swallows Park in Clarkston (ramp fee required)

-MORE-

GREENBELT/2-2-2

and Southway and Clearwater boat ramps in nearby Lewiston (no ramp fees).

“We really appreciate the public’s patience while we work to improve these facilities,” said Dunk.

For more information, call the Corps’ Clarkston Natural Resource Office at (509) 751-0240.

-30-